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REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending in the present application. Claim 1 has been amended. The original specification at paragraphs [0054] and [0055] supports the amendments to claim 1. No new matter has been added to the application. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims in view of the following remarks.

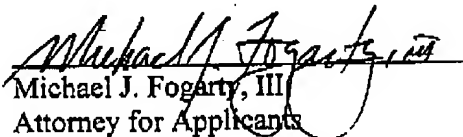
Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants have amended claim 1 to require "repairing the lithography mask when an error exceeds the threshold value." This repairing step is a useful, concrete and tangible result and, therefore, is statutory subject matter under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Claims 2-6 depend from claim 1 and add further limitations. It is respectfully submitted that these dependent claims are allowable by reason of depending from an allowable claim as well as for adding new limitations. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 1 and allow the application to pass to issue.

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Michael J. Fogarty, III, Applicants' attorney, at 972-732-1001 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible. No fee is believed due in connection with this filing. However, should one be deemed due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge, or credit any overpayment, Deposit Account No. 50-1065.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

3/27/07

  
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